

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/656,240

Examiner

Joseph D. Torres

Applicant(s)

SUGIYAMA, HIDEKI

Art Unit

2133

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Preliminary Amendment filed 09/08/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 34-40.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/382,637.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 20051104.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 09/08/2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

JOSEPH TORRES
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Joseph D. Torres, PhD
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2133

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: S402 in Figure 4. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The first line of the specification should be amended to include the US patent number for the US application 09/382,637 since the patent has since been allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 34-40 are allowed.

The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The present invention pertains to a device that communicates with an information processing apparatus through an upper-layer interface and a lower-layer interface

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comprising a reception unit, arranged to receive a predetermined command from the information processing apparatus and a processing unit.

Claim 34 recites various features:

“a processing unit, arranged to, if said reception unit receives a specific command defined for the lower-layer interface during communication through the upper-layer interface, execute a resetting process and terminate the communication through the upper-layer interface, and, if said reception unit receives the specific command while no communication through the upper-layer interface is performed, execute no resetting process”.

The Prior Art of record and in particular, Bruce, Kenneth E. et al. (US 4521848 A, hereafter referred to as Bruce), teach an information processing apparatus that communicates with a peripheral device (see Abstract, Bruce). Bruce teaches an error detection system for not only indicating but eliminating certain errors which may occur during the transfer of information between communication busses in a data processing system (see Abstract, Bruce), hence Bruce teaches a discrimination unit (an error detection system), arranged to discriminate whether an error has occurred during processing in a first communication mode (during the transfer of information between communication busses). Bruce teaches that, in the ISL configuration mode (col. 39, lines 38-45, Bruce), the input device ID command may be used by a diagnostic programmer to determine whether a local and/or a remote ISL unit is connected (col. 47, lines 28-33, Bruce), hence Bruce teaches and an execution unit (i.e., an ISL unit), arranged to execute a device ID request process (i.e., input device ID command)

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defined in a second communication mode (i.e., the ISL configuration mode). Bruce teaches that upon detection of an error, the detection system issues a response to the local bus to complete a local bus cycle, thereby freeing the bus for further information transfers and, in addition, the data processing unit on the bus which was the source of the transfer is notified that an error has occurred (col. 1, lines 56-61, Bruce), hence Bruce teaches informing the peripheral device of an error state (col. 1, lines 56-61, Bruce), if said discrimination unit (an error detection system) discriminates that the error has occurred during processing in the first communication mode (during the transfer of information between communication busses, see Abstract, Bruce).

The prior art however are not concerned with and do not teach, suggest, or otherwise render obvious a processing unit, arranged to, if said reception unit receives a specific command defined for the lower-layer interface during communication through the upper-layer interface, execute a resetting process and terminate the communication through the upper-layer interface, and, if said reception unit receives the specific command while no communication through the upper-layer interface is performed, execute no resetting process as taught by claim 34. Hence the prior art taken alone or in any combination fail to teach the claimed novel feature in claim 34.

Claims 37 and 39 recite substantially the same subject matter as in claim 34

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph D. Torres whose telephone number is (571) 272-3829. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady can be reached on (571) 272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



JOSEPH TORRES
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Joseph D. Torres, PhD
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